



**BE PREPARED!
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- Know your neighborhood and the homes your child visits. Is there a pool? Is it properly protected? Who is supervising when children are swimming?
- Keep rescue equipment near the pool— shepherd's hook, life ring and charged portable phone.
- Empty wading pools of all water after use.
- Empty buckets of all contents after use and store upside down.
- Assign an adult "Water Watcher" while your child swims at the beach, lake, water park or any swim site.
- Complete CPR and First Aid training.

**If your child does not know how to swim...
DO NOT use air-filled swim aids such as water wings, plastic rings, or swim-suits with built in foam. These are toys and not safety devices. The only federally-approved flotation device is a Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) or life vest. Select a life vest that is appropriate for your child's height and weight.**

Contact the City of Riverside Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department, YMCA/ YWCA, Red Cross or American Heart Association to enroll in CPR, water rescue, first aid and swimming classes.



Web sites for water & pool safety

www.riversideca.gov/fire

Riverside Fire Department
951.826.5321

www.riversideca.gov/park_rec

Riverside Parks Recreation & Community Services
951.826.2000

www.rivcoips.org

Riverside County Injury Prevention Services
1.800.774.7237 • 951.358.7171

www.rccfc.org

First 5 Riverside
951.248.0014

www.riversidecounty.redcross.org

American Red Cross in Riverside County
1.888.831.0031

www.americanheart.org

American Heart Association
1.800.242.8721

www.safekids.org

Safe Kids Worldwide
202.662.0600

www.cpsc.gov

Consumer Product Safety Commission
1.800.638.2772



City of Riverside paramedics, EMTs, firefighters, child safety advocates, ER nurses and doctors know all too well that...

DROWNING IS SILENT



DROWNING IS SILENT

NO SCREAMING

NO SPLASHING

NO NOISE AT ALL



- Drowning is the leading cause of accidental injury death to children ages 1 - 4 years in Riverside County.
- On average, the City of Riverside Fire Department has **38** responses per year, resulting in **5** deaths and **25** hospitalizations.
- A submerged child can lose consciousness in less than 30 seconds and sustain permanent brain damage in only 4 - 6 minutes.
- Children under the age of 5 have no fear of water and no concept of death. Water is associated with play.
- 100% of submersion incidents involving a child less than 5 years old happened with an adult present and responsible for the supervision of the child.
- Remember adults drown, too. Always use the buddy system and never swim alone.
- Pet doors are an access to the outside for a small child.

REMEMBER THE ABC'S OF WATER SAFETY

A = ADULT (ACTIVE) SUPERVISION

Assign an adult "Water Watcher," who knows how to swim, to keep their eyes on the water at ALL TIMES.



C = CLASSES

Parents/Caregivers should learn CPR, water rescue and basic first aid and be proficient swimmers. Courses are available for both children and adult learners.



B = BARRIERS

Layer different types of protection between your child and water. These include fences, self-closing and self-latching gates, window and door alarms, pool motion sensors, covers and nets.



FACTS Did you know?



- Backyard pools and spas account for over 80% of all drowning or near-drowning incidents.
- Over one million backyard pools in California lack safety features because they were built before the Swimming Pool Safety Act of 1998. Is your child swimming in one of these?
- Children also drown in buckets, toilets, fish ponds, canals, ponds, lakes and rivers.
- It takes less than one inch of water to cover the mouth and nose of an infant and/or toddler.

LAYERS OF PROTECTION FOR POOLS

- **FENCING:** Enclosing your pool or spa with four-sided, non-climbable fencing is the best protection.
- **FENCE GATES:** All gates to the pool or spa should be self-closing and self-latching.

- **DOOR & WINDOW ALARMS:** All windows and doors that lead to the pool area should have alarms to alert adults when opened.
- **POOL COVERS & NETS:** If a pool cover or net is used, make sure it has been federally approved as a safety device.